

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery, ~~which is composed mainly of~~ comprising:

fine glass fibers comprising acid resistant glass fibers and contained in a range of 50 to 92% by weight, and also contains

inorganic powder,

beaten natural pulp, and

heat-weldable organic fibers for welding the fine glass fibers, the inorganic powder, and the beaten natural pulp together, wherein the heat-weldable organic fibers have a fineness of 1.5d (deniers) or less and a fiber length of 1 mm or more, and the amount of the heat-weldable organic fibers is from 3% to 15% by weight, and wherein said separator is bendable and has folding endurance of 6.8 N/10 mm<sup>2</sup> or greater at a second folding.

2. (original) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of the inorganic powder is from 5% to 30% by weight and the amount of the natural pulp is from 2% to 15% by weight.

3. (currently amended) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fine glass fiber ~~is acid resistant glass fiber having~~ has a mean fiber diameter of 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

4. (original) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inorganic powder is a silica powder having a specific surface area of 100  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$  or more.

5. (original) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the natural pulp is beaten to the extent of 250 mL or less in the Canadian freeness.

6. (currently amended) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the fineness of the heat-weldable organic fibers is~~ have a fineness from 0.5d to 1.5d and ~~the fiber length of the heat-weldable organic fibers is~~ have a length from 1 mm to 10 mm.

7. (currently amended) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the density of the separator is~~ has a density from 0.15 g/cm<sup>3</sup> to 0.18 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

8. (currently amended) A valve regulated lead acid battery including ~~a~~ the separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in claim 1.

9. (new) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein said separator has a folding endurance at a first time in a range from 8.1 to 13.3 N/10 mm<sup>2</sup>, and said folding endurance at the second folding is in a range from 6.8 to 11.0 N/10 mm<sup>2</sup>.